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ATOMS FOR PEACE

Democratic Germany Forges Ahead

Atomic scientists in the German Democratic Republic are today on the track of important developments in the use of atomic science for peaceful purposes, it was disclosed in Berlin during December.

Manfred von Ardenne, German atomic pioneer and holder of the Stalin Prize, disclosed that researchers in the Democratic Republic had made important discoveries in the field of unoplastron and duoplastron sources, which he believed to be ahead of discoveries made in other countries. (Fuller technical details of these new developments are given below).

At the same time far-reaching steps are being taken to train young scientists in the atomic field. The first atomic faculty in Germany has been opened at Dresden, special atom courses are planned at other universities, and special short courses will be held to bring older scientists up-to-date with the latest developments.

Long-range planning in the use of atomic power for peaceful purposes is shown by the fact that East German architects are already reckoning with central atomic thermal plants for the central heating of whole quarters in the new Socialist towns, preliminary plans for which are now coming off their drawing boards.

Here are some details of the latest developments with regard to atomic science in the German Democratic Republic:

The first faculty in Germany devoted exclusively to the study of atomic science has been opened as a section of the Dresden Technical College, it was officially announced in Berlin. The task of the faculty will be to train the large numbers of atomic scientists needed for the peaceful application of atomic energy, radio-active isotopes, etc., in industry, medicine and in other fields.

Facilities for the training of atomic scientists at other universities will be expanded as quickly as possible, it was announced, and in addition it is planned to hold a whole series of short courses to acquaint physicists, chemists, biologists, doctors and technicians with the use of atomic science in their particular fields.

Announcing these important new developments, the Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party on December 4th stressed that the speedy

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Fascist Heroes in West German Film

German and Spanish fascists are the heroes, and the anti-fascist fighters of the International Brigade are the villains in a new West German film "So lange Du lebst" (As Long As You Live), produced by the EVA Film Company and financed by the American RKO Pictures.

The film, which has been approved and described as "valuable" by the official West German Film Commission, deals with the Spanish War of Independence 1936—39. The heroes are the officers and men of Hitler's "Legion Kondor", responsible for the brutal bombing of Guernica and many other towns, and the villains are men of the International Brigade, who are depicted as criminals, drunks and lunatics.

Chinese Historic Treasures Restored by Democratic Germany

Chinese historic treasures have been returned to the Chinese People's Republic by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, now touring People's China.

On December 11th Prime Minister Grotewohl handed over to Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-Lai ten banners of the Chinese revolutionary movement "I Ho Tuan" (known in Europe as the "Boxers"), which had been seized by German Imperial troops which helped suppress the Chinese anti-imperialist rising in 1901.

"These banners are witness to the historic fight for freedom of the Chinese people", Otto Grotewohl stated. "As German Socialists we give these banners with deep respect into the hands of the victorious Chinese people."

Otto Grotewohl also returned to the keeping of the Chinese people three rare manuscript volumes of the famous Chinese encyclopedia Yung Lo Ta Tien of 1407.

After touring the Chinese People's Republic the delegation from the German Democratic Republic will also visit Korea and the Mongolian People's Republic.

GONE WEST

Dr Otto John, former head of the West German Office for the Protection of the Constitution, who sought asylum in East Germany in July 1954, moved back to West Germany on December 12th 1955.

(cont. from front page)
development of atomic science was not simply a matter for highly-skilled scientists.

"Every worker must be interested in the speediest development in this field" the paper stated. "All factories which produce machines and scientific instruments to be used in this field must regard it as a matter of honour to produce these things at short order and in the very best quality. Building workers must make the greatest efforts to see to it that the necessary buildings go up in the shortest possible time.

"The brotherly help given us by the Soviet Union (which has already provided us with an atomic reactor and a cyclotron) will make it possible for us to make up for lost time in this field in a relatively short period. This is particularly important since the use of radio-active isotopes and atomic working and measuring methods are essential to the development of other branches such as chemistry, metallurgy, biology and medicine. For the introduction of automation methods, radio-active isotopes must be used in the industrial process. This will lead in many factories to a great improvement in quality and in labour productivity.

"Of particular importance to the German Democratic Republic is the winning of electrical energy by atomic power, since we have no deposits of high-grade coal, and little water-power.

"The building of atomic power plants in the German Democratic Republic is not something to be done in the distant future: it is a problem which must be solved in the next few years."

In some areas of atomic research the German Democratic Republic is already in the lead, atomic scientist Manfred von Ardenne disclosed in an address to the Chamber of Technology in Berlin on December 4th. Manfred von Ardenne, one of the pioneers of the use of the cathode ray tube in television in the 1920's, returned to the German Democratic Republic this year after working on atomic problems for many years in the Soviet Union, where he was awarded the Stalin Prize.

In his address to the Chamber of Technology he gave technical details of the fields in which he believed scientists in the German Democratic Republic to be ahead of researchers in other countries.

. . . *for experts only* . . .

(As the staff of GERMAN REPORT does not include any atomic scientists, and no up-to-date dictionaries on this subject are available, the German expression is inserted in brackets in the following paragraphs in cases of doubt.)

Herr von Ardenne stated:

"In certain special fields of applied atom physics, the German Democratic Republic will have something to show in the relativley near future.

"Particular emphasis must be laid on the unoplasmatron and duoplasmatron ion sources (Ionenquellen). These may well become the heart of many atom-conversion installations (Atomumwandlungsanlagen) of the future. It has been possible for the first time, with the help of Duoplasmatron ion sources, to suck proton streams of several hundreds of milliamps from jets only 1.2 millimetres in diameter. For the first time it has been possible to attain almost 100 percent effectiveness from ion sources. (Many previous installations had an effective use of only 30 percent.)

"These ion sources will be industrially produced in Dresden, and will be used for many different types of particle-accelerator (Teilchenbeschleuniger).

"Further new developments include ion sources for four-fold charged medium heavy ions, and a precision measuring spectrograph of high discharge with ion picture changer (Präzisions-Massenspectrograph hoher Auflösung mit Ionen-Bildwandler), which makes (Massenspektren) visible and thus overcomes a basic disadvantage of all former installations.

"For certain problems of atomic technology and for indicator methods with stable isotopes, magnetic isotope division (Isotopentrennung) is of the greatest importance. The classical form, still used on a large scale in many states . . . calls for the use of an enormous magnetic field. The weight of one magnet is about 200 tons, and for the division (Trennung) of large quantities one needs more than 100 such 200-ton magnets —the same amount of iron as is needed for several warships.

"By the consistent utilisation of the properties of the Unoplastron source in two-dimensional construction, it has been possible to construct in the German Democratic Republic a simplified form of magnetic isotope divider. In the new installation a magnet weighing only about 19 tons can do the same job of division. This means that the weight has been reduced to only one tenth of the classical type. The construction of a division installation (Trennanlage) of the new type has begun in Dresden."

CONTACT WITH THE WORLD

Trade relations between the German Democratic Republic and countries in all parts of the world are being steadily increased. Here are a few of the reports of such contacts for the past few days:

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Uruguay has named Dr. Manuel Farina as permanent trade representative in the German Democratic Republic. Uruguay will be officially represented by a collective exhibit at the Leipzig Fair in spring 1956.

*

Kurt Wolf, Vice-President of the Chamber for Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic, was received in Addis Ababa by Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

*

Kurt Enkelmann, head of the Permanent Trade Mission of the German Democratic Republic in Egypt, has been received in Cairo by Egyptian Premier Nasser.

*

A delegation from the Chamber of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic has arrived in Vienna to fix details of trade with Austria during 1956.

*

On December 8th Sudanese Premier Ismail el Azhary gave an official reception for a delegation of irrigation and waterways experts from the German Democratic Republic which had been invited to the Sudan by the Government, and which has now completed its investigations.

*

The German Democratic Republic will import over 14 million marks worth of fish from Iceland during 1956, as the result of negotiations in Reykjavik. Permanent offices of the East German Import—Export authority and the Iceland Barter Association will be opened in Reykjavik and Berlin.

*

Permanent trade delegations will be exchanged between Berlin and Damascus as the result of a trade agreement between the German Democratic Republic and Syria signed on November 27th. Syria will supply cotton, oil-seed, fruit and other agricultural produce in exchange for fine mechanical and optical equipment and machinery from the German Democratic Republic.

Innocent War Prisoners? Read Their Own Stories!

Several thousand former German prisoners of war, who were serving sentences for war crimes in the Soviet Union have been amnestied and returned to Germany in the past few months.

On arrival in West Germany, these war criminals have been received as heroes, officially welcomed by cabinet members of the West German Government, granted large sums of money, and in many cases given pensions.

West German newspapers, with a few honourable exceptions, have joined in the "heroes welcome". If they have mentioned at all the fact that these men were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for crimes, they have implied that their crimes were petty acts of looting.

But not only the prisoners have arrived back in Germany. With them came the protocols of their trials, and statements made by the criminals themselves. On this page we present a small selection from these files.

"I liquidated ghetto"

Fritz Panzinger, born in Munich in 1903, was chief of the Gestapo in the nazi-occupied Baltic states. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"In September 1943 I was appointed chief of all Gestapo and Security Service branches in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania ... The people under my command shot about 10,000 Soviet citizens. We liquidated the Vilna Ghetto, and about 25,000 citizens of Jewish origin were shot. In the same period about 5000 Jews were shot in other places in the district. The chiefs of the local Gestapo offices only shot relatively few Soviet citizens on their own initiative. All mass executions were carried out on my orders."

(On December 5th 1955, mass-murderer Panzinger was received in Bonn by State Secretary Hans Globke, Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant. Herr Globke himself wrote the nazi legal commentary to Hitler's anti-Semitic "Nuremberg Laws" in 1935).

"I fixed noose"

Karl Willi Domke, born in Munster in 1916 was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"I am a former soldier of the 4th Battery of the 42nd Artillery Regiment. On August 5th or 6th 1941 our regiment hanged about 150 Jews in Megalin near Moghilev. I put the noose round the necks of ten of them."

"I fired homes"

Heinz Ebel, born in Kassel in 1921, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"In December 1943 our unit, the 246th A. A. Company was stationed in the village of Schumilino, near Vitebsk. When we had to retreat suddenly we set fire to the houses. The people who tried to flee from the burning houses were shot. I shot between 8 and 10 people who tried to flee."

"I poured phosphorus"

Heinz Baumkoetter, born in 1912 in Bursteifurth, camp doctor in Sachsenhausen concentration camp, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"I took part in experiments on children. We injected them with jaundice so that we could see what happened. I also took part in experiments with phosphorus. We poured it over the bodies of the prisoners."

"I drove them out"

Hans Johann Schmidt, Wehrmacht colonel, born in Bamberg in 1899, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"When we evacuated Vitebsk in May 1944 ... 4000 citizens who were not capable of work were driven into the forest directly behind the German front line. In the night our corps retired to the next defence line, and the women, children and old people remained between the German and Russian lines, forming a living shield against the approaching Red Army units."

"We laughed"

Ralph-Manfred von Gassow, born in 1921 in Rheinhausen was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"In September 1942 I was in charge of a transport of war prisonners sent to Auschwitz extermination camp ... By the time we reached Auschwitz we had killed 70 of the prisoners ... The Gestapo chief in Auschwitz invited me to see his extermination methods. We went into the hospital. Six or seven of the prisoners from the transport were brought in, and led, one by one, to the measuring stand, where they were shot in the back of the neck. We all laughed a lot."

"I had English shot"

August Hoehn, born in 1904 in Lipporn, deputy chief of Sachsenhausen concentration camp, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. He told the Soviet Court:

"I personally hanged about 40 persons. In spring 1944 I hanged the German political prisoner Nowack ... I used to beat the prisonners on Saturdays. That was my personal day of judgement. I personally drew up the lists of political prisoners who were then shot. Among them were 5 Englishmen, 20 Dutchmen, a few Germans, but mainly Russians. I did not personally participate in the shootings, but I organised them."

(The files of the United Nations Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes contain the following statement made by the German prisoner of war Hans Christian Witt: "In Sachsenhausen Camp SS officer Hoehn was one of the main hangmen ... Responsibility for the actions against British prisoners of war was shared by SS officer Keindl and SS officer Hoehn."

"I shot 200 Jews"

Kurt Erich Bool, born in Ostswine in 1923, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. On September 21st 1948 he told the Soviet Court which sentenced him: "In February 1943 I was sent to the SS barracks in Libau (Lithuania). From there we went to the sea coast. Lorries arrived with Jews, and they were lined up along trenches which had been dug ... The shootings lasted for two days. About 2000 Jews were shot. I personally shot 200 Jews with my machine gun ... In March 1944 I was sent to Anklam Prison. There we shot 30 Soviet war prisoners in the prison yard. I shot three of them ... At the beginning of June 1944 I took part in the mass gassing of Soviet war prisoners. Between 1500 and 1600 were gassed in my presence. I personally gassed between 120 and 130 on the first day and between 100 and 120 on the second day."

T. V. Network Growing

More than 50,000 televisions sets are already in use in the German Democratic Republic, although only an experimental programme, consisting largely of films, is at present on the air.

From the beginning of 1956 the experimental programme will be replaced by a regular programme, and the number of transmitters will be rapidly expanded so that transmissions can be seen everywhere in the Republic instead of only about 60% of it as at present.

The East German television system will soon be linked with the systems of Poland and Czechoslovakia, so that sports and other events in Prague and Warsaw will then be available on East German screens. A link with the Soviet television service is also planned for a later date.

Democratic Police Guard Own Frontier

Since December 1st 1955, the frontier police of the German Democratic Republic have taken over full responsibility for guarding the borders of the Republic, it was officially announced in Berlin. The frontier police have taken over under the terms of the agreement reached in Moscow in September, under which the Soviet Union recognised the full sovereignty of the Republic.

The frontier police now guard the borders of the German Democratic Republic with Poland in the East, Czechoslovakia in the south, and the German Federal Republic in the West.

PUNCH LINE

"Anyone who feels inclined to laugh at the new German Army, which gathered in a barracks garage a hundred strong, had only its front row in uniform, and received its letters of appointment from a platform decorated with an iron cross in cut-out cardboard, should do so while there's still time."

Text and drawing from "Punch", London, November 23rd 1955

LEFT-WING GAINS IN WEST GERMAN WORKS

Big left-wing gains have been a feature of recent elections to works councils in many parts of West Germany. A listing presented by the Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" on December 16th shows the following results:

Krupps, Essen: the 35-man works council now includes 10 Communists, compared to only 7 last year.

Kloeckner Foundry, Haspe: The 21-man works council includes 9 Communists.

Phoenix Rhein-Ruhr Steel Factory: The 25-man works council includes 9 Communists (formerly 8).

Opel Car Works, Ruesselsheim: The 35-man works council includes 11 Communists (formerly 2).

Bayer Chemicals, Leverkusen: The 25-man works council includes 4 Communists (formerly 1).

Bremen Harbour Works: The 18-man works council includes 10 Communists (formerly 8).

Deutsche Werft Shipyards, Hamburg: The 25-man works council includes 9 Communists (formerly 6).

Hamburg Tramways: The 31-man works council includes 11 Communists (formerly nil).

6000 AGRICULTURAL CO-OPS IN EAST GERMANY

The German Democratic Republic today has over 6000 agricultural production cooperatives compared to just over 5000 one year ago, it was officially announced on December 9th.

The announcement was made at a conference of the chairmen of the cooperatives, held in Leipzig. The number of peasants in the cooperatives has grown in the same period from 158,000 to 196,000 it was announced.

Walter Ulbricht, First Deputy Prime Minister, addressing the conference, called for increased efforts to convince peasants that their own interests would be served by joining cooperatives. He stressed particularly the need to organise more cooperatives of Type Number 1, in which only the fields are worked in common, while the peasants retain their own animals.

Minister Ulbricht detailed the reasons why the agricultural cooperative must be regarded as the best solution for the problems of the countryside. The reasons are:

1. It gives the peasant a steady income and secure future.

2. Cooperative working of the land makes it possible to mechanise production, which is not possible on the small fields of individual peasants.

3. Joint work in teams is more economical than individual work.

4. Bigger crops can be obtained by use of the most modern agricultural methods.

5. The formation of cooperatives leads to a flowering of village life, the building of cinemas, more time for education and culture.

Walter Ulbricht strongly criticised the engineering industry for not devoting enough attention to the development of new agricultural machinery, which was a prerequisite of progess. New cow-sheds, piggeries, chicken farms and other buildings in the countryside would have to be fully mechanised in future, he stated. In plans now being drawn up for the whole period of the Second Five Year Plan (1956—1960) it was foreseen that by 1960 at least 80 percent of all heavy farm work would be mechanised.

Steel Helmet Stopped

Thousands of Berliners from East and West demonstrated successfully on December 12th to prevent the fascist "Stahlhelm" (Steel Helmet) organisation from holding a rally in the West Berlin district of Reinikendorf.

West Berlin police made repeated baton charges and used high-pressure hoses in attempts to clear away the demonstrators and allow the meeting to take place. More than three hundred demonstrators were arrested, and many spectators, including a Czech journalist, were beaten up by the police.

Mexican Actress Stars in Berlin

Mexican actress Rosaura Revueltas, star of the famous American trade union film "Salt of the Earth", is now acting for the first time on the East German stage.

Senora Revueltas, who speaks fluent German, is playing the title role in the Russian classic "The Foster Daughter" by Ostrovsky, produced by the Berliner Ensemble, East Berlin's best theatre, which is closely identified with great progressive playwright Bertolt Brecht.

What's Become of Prussia? (I)

VISIT TO A KRUPP MANSION

By Rose Michel, Berlin Correspondent of "L'Humanite"

Famous foreign correspondent Rose Michel wanted to find out what happened to Prussia, so she toured the country area surrounding Berlin, formerly the preserve of the Prussian Junkers and militarists. On this page we present a part of her findings.

The lofty rooms of the country mansion Biesenthal Court 30 miles north of Berlin ring with cheerful laughter when the young people dance there in the evenings. Ten years ago the Baroness Reiz von der Frehz, daughter of cannon-king Krupp, reigned there, but today her reception rooms, boudoirs, living-rooms, glassed-in verandahs and hothouses are used by the peasants as music-rooms, rest and play-rooms, library and lecture hall.

The 1200 acres of good land surrounding the mansion have been distributed to 48 families in accordance with the Land Reform law. Twenty-four new farm houses have replaced the insanitary barracks where the estate farm labourers lived little better than the farm animals.

Heinz Bogs is one of the peasants who live here.

"When I came back here in 1946 I had literally nothing but what was in my knapsack and the clothes on my back. The Nazis had made off with everything in the village and left havoc behind them. There were exactly one cow and three pigs left in the whole village."

Today, ten years later, Heinz Bogs told me, he has two horses, 3 milking cows, one heiffer, 18 pigs, five sheep, fifty hens and 7 geese. He also has a very impressive supply of implements. And he has been able to get all this together from his earnings on the 20 acres of land which he received under the Land Reform. He owns his land and all buildings on it outright and he has no debts.

Other peasants on the estate told me much the same. The old feeling of insecurity has vanished, and from practically nothing, the village has increased its total stock to 58 horses, 238 cows, 548 pigs, 101 sheep and over a thousand head of poultry.

How did they manage this? They will all give you the same answer: "We got help. Our houses and farms were built up with the help of government credits, half of which were cancelled a few years ago. The first implements, machines and artificial manure were provided by the state. Workers also came from nearby towns to help us, and we shall never forget the help the Soviet Union gave us, at a time when she was still in difficulties herself after a war which Germany had forced upon her.

"We had to work terribly hard the first few years", Heinz Bogs went on, "and there were all sorts of difficulties. But now everything you see here belongs to us. We owe it all to our government — a government run by workers and peasants, and not by Krupp and company."

Heinz Bogs, who has seven children, invited me to his home. Like the other peasant homes, furniture and household equipment differ little from those of town workers. Nearly everybody has a radio set, bicycle, musical instruments, sewing machine and well-filled book-shelves. I found Maurice Thorez' "Son of the People", and books by Aragon, André Stil or Jean Effel, as well as a number of books by Soviet writers.

Like all the peasants, Heinz Bogs is very proud of his certificate of ownership, which guarantees him the inalienable ownership of his land.

"The Baroness can come any time and try to contest my ownership", he said with a laugh, "but she will have to fly up in the air to find the ashes of the old deeds which were burnt ten years ago. We watered these fields with our own sweat long enough to make it ours and our chidren's."

The whole region presents the same picture. Schwedt Castle, near Angermunde, for instance, formerly belonged to the Hohenzollern princes, and its lands spread out beyond the Oder river into Polish territory. It is now a peasants' club. The Stolpe estate is now run entirely by young people.

The von Buch family were all-powerful for six centuries round here. You find a von Buch as supreme judge under the Prussian kings and as Captain-General of the Mark of Brandenburg. In 1848 a von Buch had rebelling peasants shot down. In 1871 a von Buch helped Bismarck to crush the Paris Commune. The last of the von Buchs to live here were leading SS and SA men. Stolpe Castle itself had hothouses, a swan lake, carp pounds, a pheasant preserve — but the only running water system was exclusively for the use of the castle.

In Brandenburg, too, lived the von Schulenburgs on a 1700 acre estate which is today divided up amongst 70 of their old retainers and farm labourers. The von Arnims owned 99 villages on the Oder river bend, the von Zitzewitz family owned 6000 acres, and Pferdmenges, banker and financier to the Hitler Wehrmacht and to Adenauer, owned what is now the Falkenberg State Farm near Berlin.

The new Germany has chased out the forces of reaction everywhere and set up the power of the workers and peasants. Who represented Brandenburg in the old Reichstag? Men like von Arnim, member of the Hindenburg Party and leading member of the Stahlhelm, Goebbels who "represented" Berlin, Goering who represented Potsdam, and Dr. von Keudel, landowner of the Frankfurt district, who played an important part in the demonstration of September 10th 1955 in West Berlin which called for a revision of the Oder-Neisse frontier and for "free elections" in East Germany, so as to be able to drive the peasants from their land again.

And who represents Brandenburg in the People's Chamber today? Here we find men like Herbert Warnke, worker and old-time anti-fascist who is now chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation; Heinrich Rau, former metal-worker and International Brigader, who is now Minister of Home and Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic, represents Potsdam; Friedrich Ebert, former printing worker, is now Lord Mayor of Berlin; and Fritz Selbmann, an old anti-fascist who spent long years in prison and concentration camp, now East German Deputy Prime Minister.

ADENAUER ADMITS SPYING

West German Chancellor Adenauer admitted in an official statement to the West German Parliament on December 7th that he had cooperated with the French Secret Service in 1948—49.

The charge that Adenauer had been a French spy was first made by the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" on July 9th 1952. The magazine gave a detailed account of the spying activities of Chancellor Adenauer; Herbert Blankenhorn, now West German Ambassador to NATO; and Adolf Reifferscheidt, today West German Consul General in Montreal.

Chancellor Adenauer immediately opened proceedings against the "Spiegel" and against Hans Konrad Schmeisser, self-confessed former French intelligence agent, who had provided the material for the article.

The case finally came to court on September 26th 1955, and was suddenly quashed on the second day of the trial after the accused had made formal statements "that they did not intend the article to be insulting". These statements did not in any way retract the substance of the charges.

Finally on December 7th Chancellor Adenauer was forced to answer a question in Parliament on the charges — and admitted the truth of most of them. Here are the main charges made against Adenauer and his associates, and the answers which he gave:

The "Spiegel" Charged	Adenauer Replied
1. Reifferscheidt had plans for a separatist movement in the Rhineland. He negotiated on this with Konrad Schmeisser, a German citizen who confesses that he was at that time a full-time agent of French Intelligence.	*1. Reifferscheidt never proposed that the left bank of the Rhine should be separated from Germany.*
2. Reifferscheidt named Blankenhorn and Adenauer to Schmeisser as "useful contacts".	*2. No mention.*
3. Blankenhorn introduced Schmeisser to Adenauer, and Adenauer authorised the handing over of all the files and information of the Christian Democratic Union, and named further Germans who could be recruited for French Intelligence work.	*3. In the post war period all political parties had close connections with the occupation authorities. On Blankenhorn's recommendation Adenauer had received Schmeisser in Cologne and had a talk with him" on unimportant subjects".*
4. Blankenhorn, acting for Adenauer, gave Schmeisser detailed reports on Adenauer's political plans, material on other German politicans, and military details of the so-called "Speidel Plan" drawn up by ex-nazi General Speidel.	*4. Blankenhorn supplied Schmeisser "with information as provided for under Allied Control Council Decree No. 2". There was never any "Speidel Plan", but Adenauer commissioned Blankenhorn to inform allied liaison officers of General Speidel's views on the military situation.*
5. Schmeisser, acting for the French Intelligence Service, gave Blankenhorn regular cash payments and supplies of food and luxuries.	*5. Schmeisser provided Blankenhorn with chocolate, coffee "and perhaps a bottle of cognac, as was the custom at that time". Schmeisser once gave Blankenhorn 1600 marks (about 140 pounds sterling) for "information about Communism in an industrial area".*
6. Schmeisser, on Blankenhorn's request, arranged for the Christian Democratic Union to receive a large sum of money from French secret funds for fighting the 1949 elections.	*6. Blankenhorn did not request money for the election funds of the Christian Democratic Union. (Adenauer neglected to state whether funds had been received without being asked for.)*

Press Comment

Here is a selection of comments from West German papers on Chancellor Adenauer's admission that he and his closest associates had worked together with the French Intelligence Service:

"Adenauer's statement left many questions open. Why, for instance, did he not insist on the matter being cleared up in a court of law? ... A feeling of mistrust persists, and this is a discredit to our state. The 'Schmeisser Affair' and its results undermines confidence in the government."

"Neue Rhein Zeitung", December 8th 1955

"It was surprising to hear that at that time (1948—49, ed.) serious politicians were forced to have relations with secret services. It did not suffice them to have contact with foreign military governments—they also had to do discreet secret service work in order to be taken seriously."

"Westfälische Rundschau", December 8th 1955

"The Social Democratic Party agreed, without further debate, to accept Adenauer's declaration, since their question about the Schmeisser affair threatened to become a boomerang. What remains is a nasty taste in the mouth ... Blankenhorn remains under a cloud, and since the Social Democrats do not appear to be interested in reaching real clarity it may be expected ... that the whole affair will now fade from the scene."

"Hamburger Anzeiger", December 8th 1955

The mountain laboured, and brought forth a very tiny mouse. We are referring to the Schmeisser debate, which was no debate at all, but simply the ingenuous answer of our convalescent Chancellor to the question put by the Social Democrats ... So on both sides the catapults, which might have hurled mud, remained in the pockets."

"Süddeutsche Zeitung" December 9th 1955

Book Corner

A GOOD BOOK — AND A BAD ONE

By the Editor

"Western Germany—From Defeat to Rearmament" By Alfred Grosser. Allen and Unwin, London 18/-.

"The East German Rising" by Stefan Brant. Thames and Hudson, London 18/-.

In the past ten years there has been a flood of books about Germany, good, bad, and indifferent. Most of them have been superficial studies by journalists who spent a few weeks, a few months, or even several years in Berlin or Bonn, and then pasted their dispatches together to make a book.

But the book which I want to recommend this week is in quite a different class. It is written by a Frenchman, Alfred Grosser, who has obviously made a serious study of the problems, who has read most of the other books and articles on the subject, and who has now produced a summary which is really worth reading.

He has very wisely limited himself to the problems of West Germany. As he states himself in his introduction: "After the first chapter this book will deal almost exclusively with one of the two Germanies. By what right? A more complete study, dealing as much with eastern as with western Germany, would certainly be preferable. But the differences between the two are so fundamental as to make them almost two different countries. The book would therefore have to be twice as big, unless the part devoted to western Germany were halved. But this apology is specious, for the truth is that the author feels unable to inform others about eastern Germany because his own information is inadequate. He has had no opportunity to go there, is acquainted with only a very small number of the relevants books and documents, and possesses little precise or verifiable information."

So M. Grosser very wisely confined his analysis to West Germany, and succeeded in producing a very valuable book. His book is not in any way sensational: it does not provide any revelations, and the author obviously makes every effort to be fair even on such subjects as German militarism and the reconcentration of heavy industry, subjects which he obviously regards with deep distrust.

Summing up at the end, he states: "No one has the right to observe Germany as a disinterested spectator, and if she appears tomorrow under an odious aspect every Frenchman and Englishman and American will have a share of the responsibility. But it is not yet too late to prevent it."

There are a number of minor points on which one could disagree with the author, but they do not detract from his general conclusions. I most warmly recommend the book to all serious students of the German problem. Incidentally M. Grosser's book was published in the United States under the title "The Colossus Again", and the title of the original French edition is "L'Allemagne de L'Occident".

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The second book on the reviewing table this week is quite a different proposition. "The East German Rising" is a hate-propaganda book directed against the German Democratic Republic which would not be worth dealing with at all if it were not for the fact that it has been given very favourable notice by alleged Socialists in the British left-wing papers "Tribune" and "New Statesman".

The book pretends to be a documentary account of disturbances in East Germany on June 17th 1953. In fact, of course, these disturbances were an attempted fascist putsch, organised and financed by the American secret service. The rioters, led in most cases by old nazi officers and paid American agents, tore down and burned red flags, murdered a number of anti-fascist veterans in cold blood, and broke into prisons and released war criminals, common murderers and pimps. (I need only recall the case of Erna Dorn, former wardress in Ravensbrueck Concentration Camp, who was serving a 15-year sentence for war crimes. She was released from prison by rioters in Halle and promptly elected to the "strike committee" which they had formed.)

But of course, facts like this are not mentioned in Mr Brant's cold war book, which presents the putschists as a band of angels striking a blow for "western freedom".

But "Tribune" and "New Statesman" really should not fall for his line. This is definitely a book which you can strike off your library list, if it was ever on it.

SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN DUE TO START

The Second Five Year Plan for the development of the German Democratic Republic will get under way on January 1st 1956. Final figures on the fulfillment of the First Five Year Plan (1951—55) have not yet been announced, but partial statistics already available show that the plan was fulfilled and overfulfilled in all main respects.

The first year of the Second Five Year Plan will be marked by massive investments in engineering and the building industry. Investment in the engineering industry will be nearly trebled compared with 1955, and investment in building will be raised by 180% percent.

The great increase in engineering investment is part of the long term plan to increase East German capacity to meet growing demands from underdeveloped countries, particularly in Asia. The German Democratic Republic is already supplying entire factories to China, India, Egypt and many other parts of the world, and a great expansion in this field is envisaged.

The big increase in investments in the building industry will be mainly devoted to basic extension of the industrial basis of the industry. Big new plants for the production of building machinery and building raw materials, particularly pre-fabricated and normed parts for building are planned. This will make it possible for really big economical building projects to be undertaken during the later years of the Second Five Year Plan, to overcome finally the housing shortage still existing as a result of bomb damage in the Second World War.

The plan foresees an all-round production increase of over eight percent during 1956, which will be accompanied by an increase of the total wage fund by over 5 percent. In the cultural field the main advance will be a doubling of the number of ten-class schools (for children aged 6—16). 34 000 children will attend such schools in 1956, and a big further increase in such schools is planned for later years.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

There seems to me to have been even more Christmas activity in East Berlin this year than last, at any rate amongst the children. School parties began on December 12th and there was something happening every day until the end of term on the 22nd.

I went with my two to their junior school party in the club in the Young Pioneer Park. Parents were not actually invited, but some members of the school Parents' Committee always try to turn up for such events. The hall was decorated with life-size painted fairy-tale scenes, coloured lights, three Christmas trees, scattered snow and spangles and the long candle-lit tables were spread with fruit, sweets and nuts. A jolly Father Christmas brought presents from a central Berlin Post Office, which plays uncle to our school, and the Post Office orchestra played Christmas music.

But the important part of this party was what the children themselves contributed—two charming Christmas plays, with songs, dances and a real story, helped by interesting coloured spot-lighting and background music from the Post Office orchestra. I was very proud of my ten-year-old daughter as the Winter Queen and was sorry that more parents could not be there to see the plays. The children put on these two plays again at four factory Christmas parties too. The teachers also produced a surprise, for they appeared as live fairy tale characters, in impressive costumes, as Red Riding Hood, the Sleeping Beauty, a witch and a wizard, Ali Baba and so on, and the children greeted them with loud cheers; you could sense that they really do like their teachers.

All the schools in East Berlin and the Republic are busy with similar celebrations, and there are also form and kindergarten parties; the form parties are rather a good idea, since they help form teachers to know their children and produce an atmosphere which makes school work easier. Organising them means lots of work for teachers, for although little money is spent on sweets and eatables—most of the presents are books, and the children give each other presents—there are games, songs and dances to rehearse and the class-room to decorate.

Then there are the children's parties given by various associations and by the trade union groups. My two went to a puppet play on the 14th—by the famous Pirna Puppet Players—in the Press Club, and on the 20th they went to a delightful party given by the trade union group of the Volk und Welt publishing house. Tables were set with cocoa and cakes and "Bunte Teller" —the traditional gaily coloured, fluted paper plates filled with fruit, nuts and sweets—and lit with candles. There was a big Christmas tree and Father Christmas, in a really elegant costume, gave out presents (chosen by parents to make sure that they were suitable), and then followed two colour films, "The Golden Antelope", an Indian legend, and "In the Far North", a beautiful film about life in the Arctic.

Children whose parents are both working have two such parties to attend and it is often difficult to fit in everything. Things get even more crowded for children who belong to a church, for they have their church festivities as well, and for Young Pioneers who also act, dance and sing for their friends.

The Christmas market on Marx Engels Platz is a centre of attraction during the whole of December. There is the usual huge Christmas tree blazing with lights, and one whole side of the square is built up with fairy tale scenes—castles, forest, sugar house, moving figures and animals, and electric stars and moon. There is a children's railway, ghost train and the market streets are lined with booths painted as timbered houses, old inns, a passenger ship and so on, where you can buy anything from a chicken roasted on the spit to fur-lined slippers. But the trouble about the Christmas market is that it is always too crowded in the evenings when the lights are lit, so that one can hardly get a proper view of it.

The Children's Theatre in Friedrichshain is always packed during December with school groups and parents giving their children a treat. "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" was one of the most popular plays showing this year.

We spent a morning in the children's shop in the Stalin Allee too, where there are masses of attractive toys for small children and electric trains and doll's prams for the older ones. These were in better supply and quality this year, and there were many interesting accessories to the trains—houses, warehouses, coal dumps and cottages with gardens to be put together by the children themselves—but to my mind there are still too few really constructive toys for older children and almost too many dolls of all types and sizes.

We had lunch in the children's cafe on the thirteenth floor, and while we waited we looked at the interesting wall decorations, tropical fish and lizards under glass and palms and cactuses, and admired the pretty hand-painted porcelain. After lunch we went down to the little theatre in the basement and saw two puppet plays, "The Magic Bird" and "Aladdin's Lamp."

People buy lots of books at Christmas and the bookshops are full of adventure and school stories and fairy tales and legends from many countries. I bought a number of translations of old favourites this year—"Treasure Island", "The Last of the Mohicans", "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn" amongst them.

The actual Christmas holiday is generally celebrated at home within the family circle, with the usual turkey or goose, duck or chicken, according to taste and size of family, Christmas tree, carols, church if you feel like it, and lots of chocolates and fruit. But if you are amongst the few who like to go away to the mountains and escape the hard work involved in preparations, you can do that too. The trade unions arrange special Christmas and New Year holiday trips to the holiday homes in the mountains and many of them make special arrangements for families. You take the presents for the children with you and Father Christmas gives them away under the Christmas tree. You get the traditional fare without mother having to prepare it and wash up afterwards, and if you are lucky, there is snow and skating and skiing as well. And it all costs very little more than Christmas at home.

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